

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, The Day of Silence is a national day of observance, with events and activities occurring across the United States since 1997; and

WHEREAS, heterosexism, cissexism, sexism, and harassment based on difference affect every citizen of Burlington, Vermont as a target or friend, partner, parent, neighbor, employer of a target of harassment; and

WHEREAS, Burlington, Vermont has a significant portion of the Vermont queer community population, including a large number of queer youth and young adults in the K-12 public and private schools and our four surrounding colleges of Burlington College, the University of Vermont, Champlain College, and Saint Michael's College; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated in the 2011 Vermont Youth Risk Behavior Survey that 32% of queer youth in Vermont have been the target of bullying and/or harassment based on their perceived or actual differences; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated in the same statewide survey that 16% of queer identified youth have attempted suicide in the last 30 days; and

WHEREAS, it is the mission of Outright Vermont to build safe, healthy, and supportive environments for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning youth (ages 13-22); and

WHEREAS, it is part of the City of Burlington's community vision, through our Legacy Project initiative, to celebrate, advocate, and support all members of our community, regardless of sexual orientation, gender, race, ability, size, nationality, religion, or age; and

WHEREAS, we believe that every individual in Burlington has the ability to help eliminate harassment and bullying by working together to promote social change; and

NOW THEREFORE, I, Miro Weinberger, Mayor of the City of Burlington, Vermont do hereby proclaim Friday, April 20, 2012 as a time to commit to

BREAK THE DAY OF SILENCE AND CREATE A NIGHT OF NOISE

In Burlington, Vermont and ask all citizens to join in this observance.


Miro Weinberger Mayor

